be launched together with a livestock Development Programme. The aim should be to limit the livestock population to economically productive stock.

17. Plantations for meeting commercial and industrial needs should preferably be located far away from the habitat.

18. The policy of supplying forest raw materials on subsidised basis to users other than the rural poor should be reviewed so that raw material is supplied at the prevailing market price, with a view to induce such users to go in for massive afforestation programmes, as also to motivate small and marginal farmers to grow forest based raw material for industry at remunerative prices.

19. The use of alternative packaging material, such as corrugated card boards, plastic bags etc. instead of wooden packaging, must be explored and encouraged.

[*Translation*]

Agriculture University Status to Raja Balwant Singh College Agra

573. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Raja Balwant Singh College Bichpuri, Agra into a national level Agriculture University; and

(b) if so, when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Already there are three agricultural universities in Uttar Pradesh. Setting up of another agricultural university does not appear to be necessary from the point of view of manpower requirements.

[*English*]

Freedom Fighters in the Country

574. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters in the country till date and the amount being spent on them annually;

(b) whether existence of bogus freedom fighters have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government;

(d) whether any high power committee has been constituted to probe into the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Freedom Fighters' pension has been sanctioned to 1,59,101 persons till 30-6-1991. Actual expenditure incurred during 1989-90 was Rs. 127,93,89,132 (Rupees One hundred twentyseven crores, ninty three lakhs, eighty nine thousand, one hundred and thirtytwo only). This includes the expenditure incurred on free Railway Passes to the freedom fighters and in running Freedom Fighters' Home.

(b) and (c) Some cases of non genuine persons applying for freedom fighters' pension on the basis of fabricated documents have come to the notice of the Government. Such cases are got investigated through the State Governments and Central agencies. If the applicant is not found genuine and eligible for pension under the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme, the pension is cancelled.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Population of Nepali Speaking Indians

575. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the population of the Nepali-speaking Indian people according to 1991 Census State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): The population of Nepali-speaking people in India is yet to be tabulated.

[Translation]

Talks with Nepal on Control of Floods in North Bihar

576. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to hold talks with the Government of Nepal on matters relating to control of floods in North Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Talks were held in the second meeting of the Indo-Nepal Sub-Commission on Water Resources in April, 1991. The next meeting will be held on the dates mutually convenient to India and Nepal.

[English]

Subsistence allowance to Extra Department Employees

577. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsistence allowance is paid to extra departmental employees when they are removed from their work as per the decision of Central Administrative Tribunal, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the amount thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The special leave petition filed by the Department has been admitted by the Supreme Court and the matter is subjudice.

Fire in Vigyan Bhavan

578. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the devastating fire in Vigyan Bhavan on April 16, 1990;

(b) whether there are differences among the experts of inquiry Committee with regard to the causes of fire; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) A Committee was appointed by the Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi to inquire into the incident of fire in Vigyan Bhavan on 16-4-1990. The report of the Committee was submitted on 25-7-90. The cause of fire in Vigyan Bhavan could not be pin-pointed by the Committee. The matter was referred again to the Committee and the members have recently given their individual views on the cause of fire. The report of the members of the Committee is under examination in the Delhi Administration.

Irregularities in Construction of Telephone Exchange Building at Kandivilli (Bombay)

579. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1271 on January, 3, 1991 and State:

(a) the outcome of the enquiry made into the irregularities in construction of telephone exchange building at Kandivilli, Bombay and whether the guilty officers involved have been identified;